



ARIZONA CROPS

September 2000

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UNITED STATES COTTON PRODUCTION UP 8 PERCENT FROM 1999

All cotton production is forecast at 18.3 million 480-pound bales, down 4 percent from last month, but up 8 percent from 1999. Based on September 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 622 pounds per harvested acre, down 26 pounds from last month. Condition of the cotton crop has deteriorated since last month, especially in the Delta and Southwest regions. Continued drought and extremely high temperatures have resulted in additional stress to the crop. Harvested acreage, at 14.1 million acres, reflects an increase from August 1 of 30,000 acres in Arkansas and a decrease of 30,000 acres in Louisiana, 60,000 acres in Mississippi, and 5,000 acres in California.

The cotton crop developed at a normal pace most of the month. Warm weather accelerated development in Virginia early in the month, where about 50 percent of the crop began setting bolls during the first half of the month. Ninety-six percent of the crop was setting bolls by August 20. Hot weather began to ripen fields in the lower Mississippi Valley and Southwest early in the month and progress accelerated as mid-month approached. Below-normal temperatures and excessive rainfall hindered development along the Atlantic Coastal Plains, especially after mid-month, as bolls opening remained well behind the 5-year average in North Carolina and Virginia. Fields matured ahead of normal in Arizona due to hot weather, while fields ripened behind normal in California due to slightly below-normal temperatures. Conditions deteriorated in the southern Great Plains, Mississippi Delta, and most of the Southeast due to extreme moisture shortages and excessive heat. In Alabama and Georgia, scattered late-month rains provided isolated, temporary drought relief. On September 3, harvest was 10 percent complete in Texas.

Upland cotton harvested acreage, at 13.9 million acres, is 6 percent above 1999. Arkansas increased 30,000 acres from August 1, while Louisiana and Mississippi decreased 30,000 and 60,000 acres, respectively, from their August 1 levels. Condition of the cotton crop has deteriorated since last month, especially in the Delta and Southwest regions. Continued drought and extremely high temperatures have resulted in additional stress to the crop. In the 13 States which lay out objective yield plots, eight States reduced yields from August, one State increased yield, and four States remained unchanged. American-Pima harvested acreage, at 176,000 acres, is down 5,000 acres from last month.

In the Southeastern States (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia), rainfall was received during August in many areas. However, due to continuing hot, dry conditions, the soil moisture evaporated quickly. Some boll rot was reported due to the rainfall on open bolls. However, overall condition of the crop remains similar to the August 1 report. North Carolina and Virginia rated 96 percent and 99 percent, respectively, in the fair to excellent categories. South Carolina rated 88 percent of it's crop in the fair to excellent categories. Alabama rated 54 percent of it's cotton as fair to excellent. In North Carolina and Virginia, moderate temperatures have hindered development of the crop.

Upland growers in the Delta States (Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, and Tennessee) experienced extreme moisture shortages and near record high temperatures during the month of August. These conditions resulted in rapid development and deterioration of

the crop. On September 3, Louisiana rated 52 percent of it's cotton acreage in fair to excellent condition. Mississippi was rated 63 percent fair to excellent. Arkansas, Missouri, and Tennessee's ratings ranged from 5 to 14 points below the July 30 level. While conditions deteriorated, development accelerated. Objective yield data show total fruit count in Arkansas to be the seventh lowest in the past 10 years. Louisiana and Mississippi's total fruit count rank eighth and tenth, respectively, since 1991.

Producers in the Southwestern States (Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas) continue to battle extremely dry, hot weather. Early maturity in dryland cotton was being reached across the Plains. Extremely hot temperatures and high winds depleted soil moisture and led to deteriorating condition ratings. Irrigated crops were also under stress in some areas of the Plains due to available water being exhausted at a rapid rate. As of September 3, Oklahoma rated 70 percent of the cotton acreage as fair to excellent condition. Texas rated 62 percent of it's acreage in these categories. Data from the objective yield survey show Texas' large boll counts rank sixth since 1991.

Upland cotton in California and Arizona is progressing slightly ahead of the 5-year average. On September 3, California reported that 35 percent of the upland cotton had bolls opening, compared to 32 percent on average. Arizona reported 74 percent of their upland cotton had open bolls by September 3, two points ahead of the 5-year average. Above average temperatures during August resulted in ideal conditions for cotton development. Irrigation alleviated any concerns associated with dry spells which accompanied the hot temperatures. However, a few fields did experience a minimal amount of squares being dropped. Mild temperatures during the last week of August slowed the development of a few fields of cotton in California, but led to improved conditions in these fields. On September 3, California rated 100 percent of their upland acreage as fair to excellent. Arizona rated 97 percent of their acreage as fair to excellent. Both States ratings are unchanged from last month. Data from the objective yield plots indicate California's count of large bolls rank sixth since 1991.

American-Pima production is forecast at 411,100 bales, down 39 percent from last year's output, and down 8,000 bales from August. The U.S. yield is forecast at 1,121 pounds per harvested acre, down 7 pounds from 1999. California's production is down 10,000 bales from the August forecast, as a reduction in harvested acreage more than offset a slight increase in yield. The crop has progressed well in California, despite cool weather during late August. Good boll retention has been reported for this year's crop. Texas increased production 2,000 bales from the August 1 forecast, while New Mexico and Arizona production remained unchanged.

Ginnings totaled 841,900 running bales prior to September 1, compared with 561,000 running bales ginned prior to the same date last year and 523,000 running bales in 1998.

COTTON: AREA HARVESTED, YIELD, AND PRODUCTION

Type and State	Area Harvested		Yield per acre			Production 1/	
	1999	2000	1999	2000		1999	2000
				August 1	Forecasted September 1		
	1,000 Acres			Pounds		1,000 Bales 2/	
<u>Upland</u>							
AL	561.0	540.0	535	489	489	625.0	550.0
AZ	269.0	279.0	1,278	1,230	1,230	716.0	715.0
AR	960.0	950.0	714	751	728	1,428.0	1,440.0
CA	605.0	765.0	1,254	1,255	1,255	1,580.0	2,000.0
GA	1,300.0	1,300.0	579	620	620	1,567.0	1,680.0
LA	610.0	700.0	709	690	672	901.0	980.0
MS	1,180.0	1,280.0	704	738	686	1,731.0	1,830.0
MO	377.0	425.0	601	700	678	472.0	600.0
NM	79.0	85.0	662	678	734	109.0	130.0
NC	825.0	930.0	475	715	723	816.0	1,400.0
OK	150.0	250.0	461	461	442	144.0	230.0
SC	315.0	310.0	428	581	573	281.0	370.0
TN	565.0	595.0	505	581	565	595.0	700.0
TX	5,100.0	5,300.0	475	498	453	5,050.0	5,000.0
VA	108.0	109.0	635	722	722	142.8	164.0
Other States 3/	134.0	129.0	478	450	428	135.9	115.0
US	13,138.0	13,947.0	595	642	616	16,293.7	17,904.0
<u>Amer-Pima</u>							
AZ	8.9	6.0	879	848	848	16.3	10.6
CA	239.0	144.0	1,210	1,192	1,200	602.7	360.0
NM	7.0	6.0	734	680	680	10.7	8.5
TX	32.0	20.0	669	720	768	44.6	32.0
US	286.9	176.0	1,128	1,111	1,121	674.3	411.1

1/ Production ginned and to be ginned.

2/ 480-Lb. Net weight bales.

3/ Other States include FL and KS. Individual state level forecasts will be published in the "January Crop Report".

AREA HARVESTED, YIELD, AND PRODUCTION, ARIZONA AND UNITED STATES

CROP	UNIT	ARIZONA			UNITED STATES		
		1999	Forecasted September 1, 2000	2000 as % of 1999	1999	Forecasted September 1, 2000	2000 as % of 1999
DURUM WHEAT							
Harvested	Thou acres	75	85	113	3,569	3,986	112
Yield per acre	Pounds	5,820	5,700		1,668	1,776	
Production	Thou tons	218	242	111	2,980	3,536	119
BARLEY							
Harvested	Thou acres	62	36	58	4,758	5,235	110
Yield per acre	Pounds	5,472	5,280		2,842	2,842	
Production	Thou tons	170	95	56	6,764	7,438	110
CORN 1/							
Harvested	Thou acres				70,537	73,059	104
Yield per acre	Pounds				7,493	7,941	
Production	Thou tons				264,245	290,146	110

1/ Arizona forecast not available, combined with other states.

ALL POTATOES 1999

Final production of potatoes from all four seasons in 1999 totaled 478 million cwt, up 1 percent from a year earlier, and 2 percent above 1997. Area harvested was estimated at 1.33 million acres, down 4 percent from 1998 and 2 percent below 1997. The yield, averaging

a record high 359 cwt per acre was up 16 cwt from a year ago and was 14 cwt above two years ago. In 1999, winter production jumped 37 percent, spring gained 20 percent, summer inched up slightly, but fall potatoes slipped 1 percent from the previous year.

SPRING POTATOES: AREA HARVESTED, YIELD, AND PRODUCTION 1/

STATE	Area harvested		Yield		Production	
	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000
	1,000 acres		Cwt		1,000 cwt	
AL	1.6		175		280	
AZ	9.6	11.0	315	290	3,024	3,190
CA	19.0	18.8	400	355	7,600	6,674
FL -	28.0	24.0	315	291	8,820	6,990
Hastings	21.0	17.0	330	300	6,930	5,100
Other	7.0	7.0	160,270	270	1,890	1,890
NC	16.5	17.0	200	200	3,300	3,400
TX	9.8	9.3	235	240	2,303	2,232
TOTAL	84.5	80.1	300	281		22,486

1/ Estimate for current year carried forward from earlier forecasts.

SPRING ONIONS

Spring Onions: The season end report of spring onions places production at 11.2 million cwt, down slightly from last year. Acres harvested, at 33,800, are down 10 percent from a year ago, and yield, at 331 cwt per acre, is up 32 cwt per acre. The value of the spring crop is estimated at 179 million dollars, 3 percent less than last year. Arizona growers reported above average temperatures which affected the quality of the crop. California experienced late season rain showers which caused minimal damage to the crop. Georgia's harvest of spring onions started on schedule and remained steady throughout the season. Georgia growers experienced dry conditions and some insect and disease problems which reduced harvested acreage and production.



SPRING ONIONS: AREA PLANTED AND HARVESTED, YIELD, PRODUCTION, AND VALUE

STATE	SPRING ONIONS: AREA PLANTED AND HARVESTED, YIELD, PRODUCTION, AND VALUE											
	Area				Yield per acre		Production		Value			
	Planted		Harvested		1999	2000	1999	2000	Per cwt		Total	
	1999	2000	1999	2000					1999	2000	1999	2000
	Acres				Cwt		1,000 cwt		Dollars		1,000 dollars	
AZ	3,000	3,300	3,000	3,200	545	430	1,635	1,376	5.53	5.80	9,042	7,981
CA	7,500	7,200	7,300	7,100	440	435	3,212	3,089	11.90	10.60	38,223	32,743
GA	16,000	12,000	14,500	10,000	190	255	2,755	2,550	27.10	26.00	74,661	66,300
TX	13,800	15,900	12,700	13,500	285	310	3,620	4,185	17.40	17.20	62,988	71,982
TOTAL	40,300	38,400	37,500	33,800	299	331	11,222	11,200	16.50	16.00	184,914	179,006

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Wilbur Sherman, State Statistician
Eddie Oaks, Deputy State Statistician
Maria Bautista, Agricultural Statistician
Clare Jervis, Agricultural Statistician
Joel Lehman, Agricultural Statistician

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE
Arizona Agricultural Statistics Service
3003 N Central Ave., Suite 950
Phoenix, Arizona 85012-2994

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Prices Received Index Declines 1 Point

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in August was 97 based on 1990-92=100, down 1 point (1.0 percent) from the July index. Lower prices for broilers, cattle, hogs, and corn more than offset price increases for eggs, tomatoes, sweet corn, and grapes. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell often affects the overall index. Higher seasonal marketings of tobacco, cattle, grapes, and sweet corn more than offset lower marketings of wheat, hay, milk, and broilers. These marketing changes kept the index from falling one more point. Compared with August 1999, the All Farm Products Index was 2 points (2.0 percent) lower. Price decreases from August 1999 for milk, corn, broilers, and oranges more than offset price increases for hogs, cattle, sweet corn, and calves.

Prices Paid Index Down 1 Point

The August Index of Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes, and Farm Wage Rates (PPITW) was 119 percent of the 1990-92 average. The index was down 0.8 percent from July but 4 points (3.5 percent) above August 1999. Lower prices in August for feeder cattle, feed concentrates, feed grains, and feeder pigs more than offset higher prices for nitrogen fertilizers, diesel fuel, LP gas, and other chemicals.

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS: ARIZONA AND U.S., AUGUST 1999 AND 2000 AND JULY 2000

COMMODITY	UNIT	ARIZONA			UNITED STATES		
		August 1999 Entire Mo.	July 2000 Entire Mo.	August 2000 Mid-Mo.	August 1999 Entire Mo.	July 2000 Entire Mo.	August 2000 Mid-Mo.
Upland Cotton 2/	¢ Lb	3/	3/	3/	53.0	49.1	49.9
All Wheat 4/	\$ Cwt				2.52	2.32	2.30
Durum Wheat 4/	\$ Cwt				2.74	2.90	2.54
Winter Wheat 4/	\$ Cwt				2.34	2.23	2.21
All Hay Baled	\$ Ton	86.00	95.00	93.00	5/ 77.40	5/ 80.20	80.50
Alfalfa Hay Baled	\$ Ton	87.00	95.00	93.00	5/ 81.50	5/ 84.50	83.90
Other Hay Baled	\$ Ton	63.00	92.00	90.00	5/ 62.80	5/ 66.60	68.50
Cows 6/	\$ Cwt	38.90	39.30	39.40	36.30	39.20	38.60
Steers and Heifers	\$ Cwt	64.50	66.80	64.60	66.20	70.40	67.70
Beef Cattle 7/	\$ Cwt	64.20	66.50	64.30	63.50	67.50	65.10
Calves	\$ Cwt	88.50	101.00	102.00	89.60	106.00	105.00
All Milk 8/	\$ Cwt	14.70	12.40	12.10	15.00	12.70	12.50

1/ Includes both spot and contract sales.

2/ Price not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

3/ Not available for Arizona.

4/ Mid-month.

5/ Beef cows and cull dairy cows sold for slaughter.

6/ "Cows" and "steers and heifers" combined.

7/ Preliminary; before deductions for hauling. Includes quality, quantity and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies.

U.S. PRICE INDEX SUMMARY TABLE

INDEX 1990-92 = 100	1999		2000	
	July	August	July	August
Prices Received	95	99	98	97
Prices Paid	115	115	120	119
Ratio 1/	83	86	82	82

1/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.